The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, concerning the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will school the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5, NO. 13 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1915. — WHOLE NO. 221

SCHOOL HEAD WINS INJUNCTION FIGHT

Toledo, O., June 26.—Government by injunction in school affairs is not the business of courts; the free exercise of discretion by school authorities is not to be abridged or destroyed by a judicial injunction; unwise exercise of discretion is a matter for the voters to deal with.

This, in substance, is the appellate court's opinion in discharging J. H. Fredericks, superintendent of the Cleveland public schools, from the decision of Judge Neff, who sentenced him to ten days in jail and pay a fine of $100 for dismissing striking teachers.

When the Cleveland teachers organized and affiliated to the Cleveland federation of labor, the school board instructed Superintendent Fredericks to notify them that membership in the union would be treated as a resignation. Judge Neff granted an injunction against this policy, but six teachers, whose terms of service ranged from ten to thirty years, were denied employment after sentence. The superintendent aliened prejudice on the part of the court, but was overruled. This position has been sustained by the supreme court, and the sentence of ten days in jail and a fine of $100 is appealed to the appellate court, sitting in this city, with the above result.

The appellate court cited the decision of the United States supreme court, January 25 last, in which the Kansas law denying employers the right to discharge because of union affiliation was declared unconstitutional. A decision by the Ohio supreme court, May 5, annulling a similar law in this state, was also cited.

DISCUSS COURT DECISION.

Toledo, Ohio, June 26.—Newspapers of this city comment as follows on the decision of the appellate court in upholding the sentence of J. H. Fredericks, superintendent of the Cleveland public schools, for discharging union teachers in violation of orders of Circuit Judge Neff of that city:

Evening News-Bee: "Government by injunction has been as bitterly criticised as any other form of government that has developed in this country. This decision says to the courts in regard to telling a board of education, elected by the voters, what it shall do in the exercise of its discretion, 'Thou Shalt Not.' It insinuates clearly that it is for the people themselves to deal with a board of education which they elected, when something is done that displeases them."

Evening Blade: "A school board, a municipality or any public institution ought to be capable of drawing a line that is once trivial and vicious. It should no more concern a board whether a teacher belongs to a union than if she belongs to a church. The ruling acknowledges powers in a public official that the people never intended that public officers should have. No time should be lost in abridging authority so exercised and so charged with opportunity for oppression."

POSTAL EMPLOYES WIN

Washington, June 26.—First Assistant Postmaster General Roper announces that promotions will be made, as usual, on July 1. This statement is significant, when considered in the fight waged before the last Congress by the National Association of Postoffice Clerks and the Brotherhood of Railway Postal Clerks, against the department's suggestion that annual promotions be established. This meant a reduction in salary to those who are entitled to annual promotion. The department's plan was vigorously opposed by the postal employes, supported by the American Federation of Labor. Senators and representatives heard them in person, and were effective to this matter, together with the abolishment of the eight hour day provision, may be overcome, also fagored by the department.

Congress refused to act on the suggestion, hence Mr. Roper's announcement that annual promotions will continue.

Thousands of postal employes will benefit by this victory, made possible by the trade union movement.

DEFEAT SEGREGATION.

San Francisco, June 26.—By a vote of nearly five to one the convention of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America refused to permit the introduction of resolutions providing for a division of the organization into two internationals. The question has been incessantly agitated for some time by western culinary workers, and just as vigorously opposed by the International officials, who have adopted the theory that the bartenders and culinary workers should be in different organizations.

EDUCATION IS A NECESSITY

Chicago, June 26.—The uneducated worker is prey for scheming politicians and designing employers, said President Perkins of the Cigarmakers' International union, in a plea for education.

This unionist presents these reasons why working men and women should become enlightened:

"The working classes have a deep interest in education; they have an intense interest in the intellectual development of the masses.

"Education is a priceless jewel; its luster penetrates the phenomena of the universe; it unravels the secrets of the movements of the planets, of the ebb and flow of the tides on the oceans; of the formation of coal, oil, gas, iron and metals in the geological survey. The wonderful discoveries in the arts, electric and chemical sciences are due to education.

"Primary education, while absolutely necessary as a stepping stone to the higher system, is not sufficient. It does not go far enough. It handicaps the education of the average workingman and woman in the struggle for better economic and social conditions; it handicaps the poor boy and girl in exposing the shams and falsehoods in which they are engulfed.

"The uneducated man is marooned in the morasses of ignorance, prejudice and superstition. He is left to be reared in an atmosphere surcharged with greed, rapacity and exploitation of the weak and the poor.

"The man without education is apt to have a narrow vision; he cannot survey the field of operations by which a comparatively few families have become multi-millionaires; he cannot grasp the machinations and manipulations by which the common people are deprived of the major portion of the fruits of their toil.

"The uneducated man is lacking the inclination to delve into and examine the laws enacted in favor of the wealthy classes, which are lauded as beneficial to the workers."

FULL CREW REPEAL VETOED

Harrisburg, Pa., June 26.—Gov. Brumbaugh has vetoed the bill passed by the last legislature repealing the full crew bill.

The veto means a complete victory for the railroad brotherhoods, who were assisted in their fight to retain the law by the trade union movement.

In his veto message, the state executive said:

"It is claimed that this additional man on the crew is a menace to the proper performance of duty by the other members of the crew. If so, and it is a challenged assertion, the corporation knows well how to secure and enforce discipline among its employes, as do all other companies and corporations employing men for definite service.

"This additional man is the emergency man on the train. He is not always busy. The large fact is true of other members of the crew. But he is needed when the unusual occurs and his presence may save life or property or both. In fact, the records show this to be the case.

"Within one year the railroad companies secured an increased freight rate by action of the interstate commerce commission. A potent argument for the companies for this increase was the fact that the full crew law added to the expense of operation. Of course, they had scarcely secured the increased rate until steps were taken to repeal the law and restore this full crew. This situation has definite bearing upon the action now taken."

STATE FUND A SUCCESS.

New York, June 26.—Reports by officers of the state insurance fund show that workmen's compensation is a success and that the state insurance fund offers these inducements to employers: Lowest cost, complete security and efficient service.

Employers who placed their insurance in the state fund, in preference to the stock companies, will effect a saving of not less than one-half a million dollars for the first year. Dividends were distributed to policy holders on the first six months' business totaling 25 per cent of the earned premiums. The expenses of the fund are paid for by the law. If it had had paid its own expenses, the ratio to premiums would have amounted to but 17 per cent, which is less than the commission to general agents paid by the casualty companies.

"In other words," continues the report, "the total expenses of the state fund, had it been obliged to pay these out of premiums, would have consumed a smaller proportion of the premium income than agents' commissions alone in the case of the stock companies.

STREET CARMEN RAISE WAGES.

Boston, June 26.—The board of arbitration has awarded employes of the Bay State Street railway increased wages. The graduated scale of conductors and motormen is fixed at from eight years to six years. The minimum of 26 cents an hour for the first year, at the end of five years. Extra time is to be paid for, and "spare" men are guaranteed at least six hours work and pay.

Wages of other employes are raised one-half cent an hour, graduated, and an additional one-half cent for the next year. Hours are reduced from ten to nine. These are to be added the fight waged before the last Congress by the National Association of Postoffice Clerks and the Brotherhood of Railway Postal Clerks, against the department's suggestion that annual promotions be established. This meant a reduction in salary to those who are entitled to annual promotion. The department's plan was vigorously opposed by the postal employes, supported by the American Federation of Labor. Senators and representatives heard them in person, and were effective to this matter, together with the abolishment of the eight hour day provision, may be overcome, also fagored by the department.

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INSISTS ON PREVAILING RATE.

Fort Worth, Tex., June 26.—Editor Woodman of the Union Banner can see no excuse for the storm of protest against the 50-cent Oklahoma wheat fields who are asking $3 a day.

"Three dollars per day has for many years been the price paid for hay harvest fields of Kansas and other wheat states," says Editor Woodman, "and we can see nothing alarming in the demand for a $3 scale in Oklahoma, for if there was ever a time when the farmers can pay a fair wage it is this year, with the assurance of a greater demand for wheat than has ever been known."

ALABAMA CONVICTS IN MINES.

Birmingham, Ala., June 26.—The Labor Advocate raises its voice against "poor, helpless convicts, bound by the laws of the state of Alabama and the profiteering contractors."

The Labor Advocate continues:

"The treatment that all the convicts leased to private mining companies get is anything but humane. The average death rate, from internal assertion, the beatings—all these things are aloud to us as citizens, and the unsalled, masculine protest, or regard for decency demands that we abolish it, and do it speedily."

SIGN ONE YEAR AGREEMENT.

Millville, N. J., June 26.—The Vacuum Bottle and Apparatus Glass Blowers' union, affiliated directly to the American Federation of Labor, has signed a one year agreement with the Calorie company at this place. The union is recognized and provisions are made for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Wage rates are agreed to and the interests of apprentices are protected. Machinery promises to give one week's notice before laying off any member, and the union pledges itself to enforce the same policy, whenever members quit their employment.

STATE UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Winona, Minn., June 26.—The Minnesota state federation of labor will meet in this city, beginning Monday, July 19. In the call for this annual convention, officers state that "the influence of the federation is far reaching throughout the state as it never was before."

Oklahoma City, Okla., June 26.—Officers of the Oklahoma federation of labor have issued a call for the annual convention, to be held in this city, starting Monday, August 16.

GET SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

Philadelphia, June 26.—Employes of practically all the stores along Walnut street, an important retail section of this city, will be given full Saturday holidays during July and August, as the result of a meeting held by merchants. Originally the Saturday holiday in Walnut street meant a few hours. It has gradually extended until it included the entire day.

EIGHT-HOUR LAW IS LEGAL.

Portland, Ore., June 26.—Circuit Judge Kavanagh has upheld the eight-hour law for public work. This act has been evaded by contractors subletting the work, which is then conducted on the long hour plan. The county decision declares this practice is contrary to the law's intent.

LAWSON JURY TRICKED AND COERCED! WAS JOHN NIMMO KILLED BY GUARDS?

Trinidad, Colo., June 26.—A juryman in the John R. Lawson case voted to convict the miner that he might visit his sick wife, who, the bailiff in charge of the jury told him, was seriously ill. Later, the juryman learned of the statement was false.

Mine Guard White, who was in the battle that resulted in the death of John M. Nimmo, swears that the position of Nimmo's body made it impossible for him to have been shot from the rear by the strikers. White intimates that Nimmo was shot by guards, and swears he himself had several narrow escapes, and that other mine guards complained of the same experiences.

White and another mine guard (C. A. Kingsbury) contradict the testimony of three mine guards, which aided in the state conviction of Lawson.

Two jurors swear that the bailiff in charge of the jury told them Judge Hillyer ordered they must agree on a verdict before they could eat.

The above startling allegations are contained in the motion for a new trial filed by attorneys for John R. Lawson, convicted of the murder of John Nimmo, mine guard. The document is the most sensational ever recorded in a murder trial, and again illustrates the methods employed by Colorado mine operators to destroy the miners' union. Two hundred and twenty-one assignments of error are charged in the trial, and include Judge Hillyer's prejudice, the handling of the jury, the make-up of the jury, the refusal of the attorney general to give reasonable information in advance and the refusal to grant a change of venue, and the coercion used against the jury to secure a conviction.

Two jurors support the statement of Juror Hall that he (Hall) was notified several times by the bailiff that his wife was dangerously ill. The jury was kept in the room all day Monday without food. Hall had no means of communicating with his wife. This, together with the protestations of other jurors that he was responsible for their lack of food, caused him to vote for conviction because he was ignorant of his duties and rights as a juror. Hall swears the false statements of the bailiff flooded and disturbed his mind of that he agreed with his colleagues. Hall further says that Bailiff Gooden created the impression that Judge Hillyer intended to starve the jury into reaching an agreement; that Hall was unable to longer withstand the pressure of fear for his wife and protests of other jurors.

Equally sensational is the testimony of C. A. Kingsbury and Barton S. White, mine guards, who were the first to reach Nimmo after the shooting, and who, the Lawson attorneys now point out, were not among the prosecution's witnesses at the trial, and who would be yet unknown but for the fact that White volunteered the information after Lawson's conviction. He says his conscience forced him to tell the injustice done Lawson, and on his return from Wyoming gave this information to the unionist's attorneys.

Kingsbury swears he and Nimmo were close together when the latter was shot and that another mine guard named Whitney, now dead, was running away when affiant saw Nimmo fall. White swears it was impossible for Nimmo to have been shot from in the lower part of the body because of his position; that the guards were stretched out from east to west a distance of two miles, and that none of the more westerly direction were shooting eastward; that mine guards complained of this shooting, and that one mine guard told him (White) the guards were in more danger from the bullets of their own men than they were from those of the strikers.

FORCES AT WORK IN UNIONS

Newark, N. J., June 26.—Henry Carless, of this city, a member of the executive board of strikers, at Roosevelt, has notified the court that he will no longer act as bondsman for Leonard Frisina, who is under indictment for conspiracy to kill.

Frisina was very active on behalf of the strikers, but his methods aroused the suspicions of A. F. of L. organizers. He was finally arrested, and was furnished bail on the bond of Attorney Carless. Frisina was one of the witnesses for the strikers in the Paterson deputies charged with murdering strikers, and when attorneys for the workers called on him to take the stand and tell what he knew of the detectives, Frisina could not be found. This supported the suspicions of the A. F. of L. organizers and the court was notified that guarantees for his future appearance were withdrawn.

An alleged "Leonard Frisina Defense Fund Committee" issued circulars for financial aid, stating that the A. F. of L. will not help. The circulars were intended to convey the impression that the boss had used union methods to hold this position because Frisina styled himself a "revolutionist."

Orgador Tikoff, of Paterson, who had charge of the chemical works' strike, under direction of the American Federation of Labor, issued this report on the circular to A. F. of L. headquarters.

"This man Frisina has succeeded into the good graces of the strikers and succeeded in having them place him on a salary, so now there are but a handful of 600 strikers there were only 60 or 70 Italians. Tikoff and Tarcal (A. F. of L. organizers) were to have a meeting today during the strike, and a considerable time afterward. I even agreed to send the Italian organizer to Paterson to look after the interests of the Italian strikers three days each week, but from any standpoint the strikers, but Frisina was able to persuade the men to reject this offer and retain him. He had the executive board of the union send me a special delivery letter demanding that I be placed on the pay roll. My answer to this was an ultimatum that unless they immediately got rid of this man I would withdraw the organizers and notify the trade unions, especially in Jersey, who were contributing financial support, to withdraw same. This had the desired effect. I further instructed the executive board secretary of the union that I would hold them accountable for any money given to this man, who is notorious as a faker, and who usually gets into situations of this kind and takes advantage of the ignorance of the strikers in furthering his own personal interests."

In view of Frisina's absence from the court, when needed to testify in behalf of strikers, Organizer Frayne's estimate is most significant, and clearly illustrates the many forces at work in unions.

AUSTRALIAN UNIONS WIN.

Melbourne, Victoria, June 26.—Railroad unions in this Australian state have won their fifteen years' fight to secure government recognition of their secretaries. In the future these officials will be received by the railway commissioners, and letters involving matters of interest to the workers from the ministry will also be answered by the managers of Victoria's state-owned railroads.

URGE DAY LABOR.

Portland, Ore., June 26.—The Central Labor Council has passed a resolution favoring the day labor plan on public work. The council, in order to create public opinion, that the county commissioners may hearken to this just demand.

COLORADO PUBLICITY SHOULD BE DEMANDED

Indianapolis, Ind., June 26.—In commenting on President Gompers' New York denunciation of attempts to poison the public mind with intelligence of this country by special interests, the United Mine Workers' Journal says:

"There can be no doubt but that the word has gone out (or should we call it an order?) to the press of the country to use all its great influence to discredit in advance the coming report of the federal commission on industrial relations.

"If the entire report, the results of patient and painstaking investigation, is to be discredited in advance it will be chiefly because it is expected that this report will condemn the mine owners of Colorado, and especially the absentee owners of a Rockefeller group, for the atrocious conditions that brought about the strike in that state, and for the subverting of the civil and local governments through which was made possible the unspeakable crimes against humanity that forever disgraced the name of the state of Colorado.

"The report of this commission is expected to be more severe than was the report of the congressional investigating committee, which heard witnesses and disinterested parties that have reported, it is only because the commission went deeper into the matter than did any previous investigation. Because it was the purpose of the commission to pass upon later events, notably the Ludlow massacre, the immunity of those who took part in that bloody event, and the ruthless use of the servile government of Colorado to persecute to the utmost those of the leaders of the miners who, for a time, held off the consummation of this crowning infamy.

"Let as many miners and other workers as possible can digest the verbatim report of the evidences as presented before this commission when it is issued, and be in position, when the hired press undertakes to perform its function, to call attention to the facts as brought out by this evidence."

URGE NEW LABOR LAWS.

Fredericksburg, Va., June 26.—The convention of the Virginia state federation of labor, held in the state constitutional convention, has introduced many of the amendments agreed to by the recent conference of organized workers in this city. Among them is providing that "no person charged with the commission of any crime or offense which may be punishable by imprisonment, including contempt of court, shall also have a trial by jury upon demanding the same."

WHY CRITICS SCORE WALSH

San Francisco, Cal., June 26.—Here is what Editor Barry of the Weekly Star thinks of the attacks on Frank Walsh, chairman of the commission on industrial relations:

"We want the facts about the industrial situation. We want to know if there are more important than the feelings of John D. Rockefeller, jr., and should be brought him sick. If the bringing of them out raises goose bumps or horror on some of our more timid souls, Rockefeller's press agent in the Colorado fields, and how he brought labor and other interests have brought industrial relations in this country into the present condition—and still maintain them in the condition—that fully justifies the existence of the commission on industrial relations, and also the alleged objectionable methods of Chairman Walsh. The commission does not exist for the purpose of allaying Rockefeller's fears or of relieving Rockefellers an opportunity to clothe themselves in summer garments of whitewash.

"It is not at all difficult to understand why Rockefeller's hatchet men have turned against Chairman Walsh. He has been showing up special privilege; he has been showing up Rockefeller and his gang. He has been showing up privilege, the holy of holies of those who exploit industry and are responsible for industrial unrest. That is an unpardonable crime—in the eyes of special privilege. The owners of privilege want the people to know what is wrong. Frank P. Walsh knows only too well how. Hence the denunciations of Walsh."

PAPER MAKERS STANDING FIRM.

Albany, N. Y., June 26.—Officials of the Paper Makers' Brotherhood of Paper Makers report that their members on strike for better conditions at Watertown, Deferiet, and other northern New York localities, are standing firm. The strike at Deferiet, against the St. Regis Paper company, was caused by a refusal to reduce working hours. The company has imported strike breakers in Deferiet, and has forced the strikers to vacate. They are now living in tents. The company has imported over 100 armed thugs who are attempting to create the impression that the company property is in danger.

The strike at Watertown against the Continental Paper Bag company is another shorter work day movement. The Remington Paper and Power company at Watertown, and the Taylor Paper Mills, are operating on a nine hour basis.

ARBITRATORS CHOSEN.

Chicago, June 26.—Organized street car employes have chosen Mackey Hoyne, state's attorney of Cook county (Chicago), to represent them on the board that will arbitrate the matters in dispute with the elevated and surface car companies, and which caused the two days' strike recently. The companies have selected James M. Sheehan, who was attorney for the receivers of the railroads during the operation of the wage demands of engineers and firemen. The representative of this city will be the third man on the board. President Mahon of the Amalgamated Street Car Men's union will act as attorney for the car men.

EIGHT HOURS NEXT MONTH.

Columbus, O., June 26.—Starting with July 1, the eight-hour day in city work will run on eight-hour shifts, a reduction of two hours a day.

SCOTT NEARING DISMISSED

Philadelphia, June 26.—Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania have dismissed Prof. Scott Nearing, assistant professor of economics in the Wharton school of that university. Prof. Nearing holds pronounced views on trade union, child labor, and allied subjects, which have been discussed by him with a fearlessness and vigor that has attracted general attention.

A short time ago the university officials denied President Gompers the right to address a mass meeting of students in any university building. The students had invited the unionist to speak on the labor question, and because of the university officials' actions they were compelled to hire a public hall. At that time Prof. Nearing urged his class to attend the Gompers meeting.

Prof. Nearing's free speech policy has been regarded as the final attempt to discipline him has caused much indignation. It is stated that the decision was withheld until the close of the term for fear of demonstrations by the students.

Herman Haupt, a member of the board of Joseph Wharton, and one of the executors of the will of the founder of the Wharton school, has joined in the fight for free speech. He, together with other citizens, are urging Governor Brumbaugh to withhold his approval of the action by the university. Morris charges that this institution is dominated by reactionaries, and that the deposed educator has done numerous public services by exposing methods employed by corporations whose directors are university trustees.

"FREEDOM OF SPEECH."

Chicago, June 26.—"To forbid free dom of speech to an American is to strike a blow near the foundation of what he considers tolerable government," says the Chicago Tribune, in line with the dismissal of Prof. Scott Nearing by University of Pennsylvania trustees.

"Are our universities to teach only the theory and persuasion of whoever backs the claims advanced by the one selected to the position of regent or trustee?

"We usually have made honors of the places, in the overwhelming number of instances limiting our selections to that class of men—those who have made money, are profoundly reverential to what are known as the naturally feel kindly to the system that has given them such complete recognition and appreciation."

WHAT UNIONISM CAN DO.

Detroit, Mich., June 26.—The Bottle Sorters' union illustrates what working men can do through organization. Less than five weeks ago bottle sorters in one large establishment in this city received from $6 to $11 a week, and as a rule were compelled to work seven days a week. Most of them were unacquainted with the English language, but were induced to attend a mass meeting and were organized as a federal union, directly chartered by the American Federation of Labor. They presented a new agreement to their employer and after a ten days' strike secured a working agreement which provides for the union shop, nine hours a day, six days a week and a wage rate of $15 a week.

GLASS BOTTLE MEN GAIN.

Philadelphia, June 26.—D. A. Hayes, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers' association, has signed a new agreement with the American Bottle company. The agreement is for two years and provides for an increase of 5 per cent, November; also working rules for all departments controlled by the glass blowers' association. The recently organized its large plants at Newark, Ohio, and Streator, Ill.

Streator, Ill., June 26.—President Hayes of the Glass Bottle Blowers' association addressed a mass meeting of the employes of the American Bottle company. The speaker referred to the contracts signed by this company, and which were made possible by organization.

ITALIAN SEAMEN ASK MORE.

Genoa, Italy, June 26.—Italian seamen are demanding a betterment of their working surroundings, and insist on higher wages because of war conditions. They ask that the law be changed for the vessel owners, who, in many cases, are now making profits, the value of their ships having risen 50 per cent. The seamen first asked that their demands be considered by an arbitration board, but this was refused. The owners stated that they would not meet the request regarding providing the union's secretary did not take part. This official quickly replied that he made no objection if the owners who continued their policy of delay. The men were finally compelled to strike.

DON'T LIKE SEAMEN'S LAW.

Detroit, Mich., June 26.—The executive committee of the Great Lakes Passenger Men's association maintains opposition to the seamen's law, passed by the last Congress. The vessel men assure the public that the law will result in driving the American flag off the great lakes.

The same argument was used before congressional committees when an attempt was made to force owners to equip their boats with life-saving apparatus. The claim was then made that passengers would not travel unless they were picked up by passing vessels.

RAIL EMPLOYES CONFER.

Toledo, O., June 26.—For the first time in ten years representatives of members of the four railroad brotherhoods was held in this city for the purpose of discussing questions of mutual interest. The recent arbitration award, affecting railroads west of Chicago, was discussed, and also the United States Commissioner of Labor Hanger's report regarding the arbitration board, was declared to be prejudiced at the start."

A CANADIAN INJUNCTION.

Hamilton, Ontario, June 26.—Officers of the Musicians' union have been served with a temporary injunction because of an open meeting held in this city. The court dismissed an injunction against the union on the ground of an open meeting. The same result was attained, however, by enjoining the officers.

BUILDERS DEMAND PROTECTION.

Cincinnati, June 26.—The Building Trades Council has appointed a committee to call on the mayor and insist that the city cops speak to workmen when arrested. This, apparently recently removed and the building trades accidents to workmen are bound to increase as a result.

TAFT'S LEGAL ADVISER DISCUSSES CLAYTON ACT

VIEWS OF ITS FRIENDS UPHELD

George W. Wickersham Agrees With Unionists' Position.

Opinion Published in July American Federationist—Author Not Noted for Trade Union Sympathies.

Washington, June 26.—Will the labor provisions of the Clayton act give workers the relief its advocates claim?

A majority of Congress has registered an emphatic "yes;" the American trade union movement and sympathizers say "yes."

Anti-trade union elements, naturally, disagree.

Now comes George W. Wickersham, United States attorney general under President Taft's administration, with an affirmative answer to this question. As a lawyer he supports the position of friends of the act in an article that will prove a valuable contribution to the discussion, and which is published by the July issue of the American Federationist, which also contains the consent of the publishers of Mr. Wickersham's opinion, and also Mr. Wickersham himself, to republish it.

As an introduction to Mr. Wickersham's article, President Gompers says:

"This article is published from the Alumni Register of the University of Pennsylvania, with the consent of its author, and of the Alumni Register. The opinion of former Attorney General Wickersham as to the application and significance of labor provisions of the Clayton act is of special interest to the members of organized labor. Mr. Wickersham confirms the claims advanced by the advocates of the legislation, even though he does not indorse the principles Mr. Wickersham's harsh and unjustifiable attacks in the article upon labor leader and labor organizations discloses the fact that he cannot be accused of over-friendliness to organized labor. His article is one of the more valuable and convincing, the value and importance of the provisions of the Clayton law."

In urging trade unionists and pathiners to read this article, and study it as carefully as possible, President Gompers makes this statement:

"Because of the importance of the toric value of Mr. Wickersham's opinion, it is well that it should be made accessible to the widest possible circulation and permanent record of so important and valuable contribution to the discussion of the great issue involved by the enactment of provisions of the Clayton law."

"GRANDFATHER CLAUSE" DECISION.

Washington, June 26.—By a unanimous opinion, the United States supreme court has declared invalid the Oklahoma and Maryland legislation which gives the colored vote. The crux of the decision, that is a virtual nullification of the fifteenth amendment to the constitution for a state to do. In the Oklahoma state, and in the state of Maryland legislation provides that persons not qualified to vote, or whose ances- not so qualified, shall be given a reading or must submit to voting tests not required of others.

This is the so-called "Grandfather clause" inserted in the elections laws of these states, which the court's ruling will probably have effect on these enactments, and "the most important decision rendered in the history of the supreme court."

UNION'S LAW SUSTAINED.

New Haven, Conn., June 26. — On motion of Judge Simpson, a jury rendered a verdict in favor of the cigar makers' union in the case of a member who brought suit to have his name on the unemployed waiting list while traveling without first securing a regular traveling card. The union was sued for $500 damages on the ground that the member was compelled to remain idle for two weeks until he secured his card.

The defendant union insisted that when a man joins the union and agrees to abide by its rules he is not entitled to a card if he fails to do so. This position was upheld by Judge Simpson, who instructed the jury to render a verdict accordingly.

CRACKER BAKERS ADVANCE.

San Francisco, June 26.—The Cracker Bakers' union has signed a one-year agreement with employers in the city. Improved working conditions is a feature of the new contract.

25,000 ARE KILLED AT WORK

Washington, June 26.—While Americans are horrified at the carnage of European war, and are devising methods to stop the holocaust, the federal bureau of labor statistics calls attention to the fact that 25,000 wage workers of both sexes are killed in this country every year.

During the same period the number of injured that are disabled more than four weeks approximate 700,000.

The bureau is not content with killing and maiming of vast armies of American workers, but will fail to include a number of industrial accidents, for such studies as have already been made show that the number of injuries disabilities of one day and over, at least three-fourths terminate during the first week.

The bureau, in its statement, shows that metal mining ranks as the most dangerous occupation in the list of workers killed last year for every 1,000 employed, the number ending in mines with a rate of 3.5, and fisheries and navigation follow with a rate of three per 1,000 employed.

The industries which contribute the greatest number of fatal accidents, regardless of the number employed, are railroad employments and agricultural employments, the former responsible for approximately 4,500 deaths each year. Coal mining contributes more than 2,000 deaths and road and construction work nearly 1,800.

The report says that compensation laws are in force in 30 states, and the reported number of accidents. Aggressive accident prevention work is also reported. It is stated that where this has been undertaken the number of accidents have been reduced one-half.

IRON WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Savannah, Ga., June 26.—A local of iron workers has been organized and affiliated with the International association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

"THE SEAMEN'S BILL IS NOT GUILTY"

San Francisco, June 26.—The attempt to repeal the recently-enacted seamen's law at the first chance that is answered as follows in a leading editorial published in the Evening Bulletin:

"The seaman's act is being blamed for the decision of the Pacific Mail company to wind up a prosperous year by withdrawing its trans-Pacific line from service. But the Pacific Mail need go no further than the statements of General Manager Schwerin of the company to find the real cause for its change. Two years ago, while testifying before the congressional committee, Mr. Schwerin predicted the action that his company has now taken, and frankly stated that the reason for it would be the act forbidding railroad-owned ships to pass through the canal.

"'Do I understand,' asked Congressman (now Secretary of Labor) Wilson, 'that you are going out of the shipping business, so far as the American flag is concerned?'

"'Yes, sir,' replied Mr. Schwerin, 'and your bill (i. e. the canal bill) will wind up the American flag on the Pacific Ocean.'

"This was on February 1, 1913. There was a seaman's bill before Congress at the time, but there has been no act to pay it had not been passed by the Senate, and it was not passed at that session. We have Mr. Schwerin's word for it, therefore, that the Pacific Mail was doomed in 1912, and would have to go out of business in its trans-Pacific service. But it has not done so. It seems to have made no effort to keep itself afloat. Its fatal railroad connections * * *

"Mr. Schwerin and other shipping men have seemed to take pleasure in hoisting the American flag over their vessels. Their pleasure is naturally not enough to induce them to operate their vessels at a loss, but it is nevertheless genuine. But the public at large will add something more of its merchant marine than the presence of some red, white and blue bunting at the mastheads. It will desire that each ship be worthily representative of the American people and their institutions. The ships that have been operated under the old maritime laws have not been thus representative. On the Pacific ocean they have been American in name, a large proportion of their crews was Oriental, living under Oriental conditions and receiving the lowest of Oriental wages. The shipowners who object to the seaman's act do so because they do not want Americanized ships in the merchant marine. They do not want American-ships, for which American capital would be no more American, for practical purposes, than any line, under any flag, for which American capital happened to be represented.

"Andrew Furuseth's great charter of sailor's liberty ought to stand, for the sake of the sailors, for the sake of the passengers who risk themselves in seagoing ships, and for the upbuilding of an American merchant marine of which an ordinary American can be proud."